



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - April 3, 2003

- ***In the West***, dry, breezy weather favors fieldwork in **California** and the **Four Corners region**. Meanwhile in the **Northwest**, showers continue to boost valley moisture reserves and high-elevation snow packs.
- ***On the Plains***, cold weather and snow showers linger across **Montana** and **North Dakota**. Farther south, warm, mostly dry weather is promoting spring fieldwork on the **central and southern Plains**, although breezy conditions are depleting topsoil moisture in winter wheat areas across **northern Texas** and **western and central Oklahoma**.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, light, frozen precipitation (freezing rain, sleet, and snow) and cold, breezy conditions prevail across **northernmost portions of the region**, but isolated showers are causing only minor pre-planting fieldwork disruptions elsewhere in the **Midwest**.
- ***In the South***, planting operations for corn, soybeans, cotton, rice, and other spring crops continue to advance northward under warm, dry conditions.

Outlook: For the remainder of the week, periods of rain and snow will persist along a stationary frontal boundary draped across the **northern Plains, upper Midwest, and Northeast**, while dry, warm weather will prevail in the **Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern States**. Showers and thunderstorms will develop along a cold front moving through the **middle and lower Mississippi Valley and Corn Belt**, trailed by a return to below-normal temperatures across the **central U.S.** Farther west, occasional rain and snow will continue in the **Pacific Northwest, northern California, Great Basin, and northern Rockies**. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 8-12 calls for above-normal precipitation across the **southern Plains, Gulf Coast States, and Mid-Atlantic region**, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected across the **northern Rockies and northern Plains**. Above-normal temperatures are forecast nearly nationwide, except for some cooler-than-normal conditions in the **southern Rockies**.

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